

REMARKS

Claims 8, 25, and 53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Specification

Applicants have noted the Examiner's comments regarding a missing drawing and have amended the specification, as indicated herein, to include references to the missing drawing. Applicants respectfully submit that this change does not introduce any new matter, as explained herein below, and thus respectfully request that this amendment to the specification be entered.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants have noted the Examiner's comments regarding the drawing objections. In particular, the Examiner has alleged that the rings attached to the pipes by welding as per Claim 6 are not shown. Although Applicants respectfully submit that from the pin and box (male and female) connections illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification, it would be apparent to one skilled in the art that these connections could be rings attachable to other tubulars or pipe segments by welding, threading or other connection means employed in the industry. However, for the purposes of clarity, Applicants now include Figure 4A illustrating male and female connections, produced at ends of separate rings and attached to tubulars by welding. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added as new Fig. 4A is fully supported by Claims 5-6 as well as the description, at least in part, at page 3, lines 6-10 and page 5, lines 6-11. Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that the drawing objections have been overcome and thus respectfully request that this amendment to the drawings be entered.

Claim Rejections – 35USC § 112

Claims 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 20, 34-36, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants note the Examiner's comments regarding the phrase "such as" in Claim 4. Applicants respectfully note that Claims 34 and 39 also contain the phrase "such as," and accordingly, Applicants have amended Claims 4, 34, and

39 by deleting said allegedly indefinite phrase.

Regarding Claims 12, 13, 35 and 36, Applicants respectfully point out that the language of the Claims modifies “angle” as a “lead angle.” Thus, “angle refers to the pitch angle of the protuberances. It should be noted that a “no lead angle” would be a protuberance with a zero lead or pitch angle. Applicants respectfully submit that the terms lead angle or pitch angle are well known in the art and do not require further clarification.

As per amended Claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would understand that the protuberances are “axially pre-loaded” as a result of contact between the mating male and female protuberances as the pipes rotate relative to each other. Applicants respectfully bring to the Examiner’s attention that Claims 34 and 39 do not refer to “axially pre-loaded” but should instead be grouped with Claim 4 as discussed hereinabove.

Claim 17 has been corrected, by adding an “s” to the word “protuberance” to provide the proper antecedent basis.

Regarding Claim 20, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art, after reading the description and viewing the drawings would clearly understand that when the mating conical surfaces of the male and female ends contact, there will a load imposed on or forced on from one mating surface to the other mating surface.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 20, 34-36, and 39 under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35USC § 102

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 34, 35, 37, 39, 51-55, 60, 61, 63, 68, 69, 72, and 73, said claims having been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,507,877 to Wilson. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As per amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Wilson does not teach, disclose, nor suggest that at least one of said protuberances embodies at least one interference dimension that causes the protuberance to displace a mating protuberance surface. Further, as per amended Claims 23, 37, and 51, Applicants respectfully submit that the conical abutment surfaces 23, 24 and 25, 26 (of Wilson) are not disclosed as being pulled into contact, with each other, due to the mating of the protuberances and/or patches of the male and female ends

respectively. Further, as per amended Claim 69, Applicants respectfully submit that the conical abutment surfaces 23, 24 and 25, 26 (of Wilson) are not disclosed as being pulled into contact, with each other, due to at least one of said incomplete thread embodies at least one interference dimension that causes the incomplete thread to displace a mating incomplete thread surface and thus create a axial load on the abutting surfaces. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 23, 37, 51, and 69 and Claims 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 18, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 34, 35, 39, 52-55, 60, 61, 63, 68, 72, and 73, which depend from Claims 1, 23, 37, 51, and 69 are patentable over the cited Wilson reference and a favorable condition of such claims in respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 12-15, 17-21, 23-39, 51-61, 63-66, 68, 69, 72, and 73, said claims having been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,283,511 to Kamp. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As per amended Claims 1, 23, 37, 51, and 69, Applicants respectfully submit that Kamp does not teach, disclose, nor suggest the utilization of double shoulders mating so as to bear compressive loads to which the male and female ends are exposed. Kamp allegedly teaches a single shoulder at surfaces 7, 57 and relies on the threads for the second abutment 20, 86. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 23, 37, 51, and 69 and Claims 2-5, 7, 10, 12-15, 17-21, 24-36, 38-39, 52-61, 63-66, 68, 72, and 73, which depend from Claims 1, 23, 37, 51, and 69 are patentable over the cited Kamp reference and a favorable condition of such claims in respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claims 1, 4-6, 12, 13, 14, and 37-39, said claims having been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,185,856 to McCaskill. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As per amended Claims 1, and 37, Applicants respectfully submit that McCaskill does not teach, disclose, nor suggest the utilization of double shoulders mating so as to bear compressive loads to which the male and female ends are exposed. McCaskill allegedly teaches a single shoulder at surfaces 62, 72 and relies on rotation stops 78, 90 for what may possibly be a second abutment. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, and 37 and Claims 4-6, 12, 13, 14, and 38-39, which depend from Claims 1, and 37 are patentable over the cited

McCaskill reference and a favorable condition of such claims in respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the application now stands in prima facie condition for allowance and courteously request that this application be advanced to issue. The Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fees are required with the submission of this response. However, if additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby respectfully authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account Number 13-2166. The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative, Taras P. Bemko, at 713-355-4200, to discuss any matters, that may arise, where such discussion may resolve such matters and place this application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes the addition of new FIG. 4A on SHEET TWO OF TWELVE. The corrected drawing sheet, Sheet Two of Twelve (FIGS. 4, 4A, 5 and 6) replaces the original Sheet Two of Twelve (FIGS. 4, 5, and 6). FIG. 4A, illustrates separate rings (1b, 2b), comprising a male end and a female end, attached by welding (W) to a first pipe (PS1) and a second pipe (PS2), respectively.

Attachments: Transmittal of Corrected Drawings

One (1) Page of Corrected Drawings

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Invention:

Tubular Connection with Slotted Threads

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